

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-18 are rejected as unpatentable over KAMADA et al. 6,192,258 in view of PHILLIPS 2002/0123965. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The earliest date to which PHILLIPS is entitled as 102(e) prior art is PHILLIPS' provisional application filing date of February 21, 2001. Applicant claims priority to Japanese Application No. 339607/2000 filed November 7, 2000, which antedates PHILLIPS' earliest 102(e) date. Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of the Japanese priority document to perfect the claim to priority and remove PHILLIPS as a prior art reference.

Since PHILLIPS was applied against each of the claims and since PHILLIPS is believed to be removed as a prior art reference by perfecting the claim to priority, claims 1-18 are believed patentable over the cited prior art.

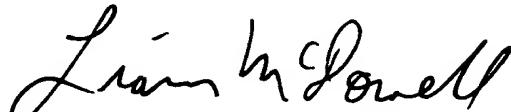
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified English translation of Japanese Application No. 339607/2000